REMARKS

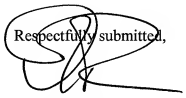
In response to the restriction requirement which the Examiner imposed, Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-21 and 48-55, *i.e.*, the Group I claims. Thus, claims 22-47 and 56-63 have been canceled without prejudice and reserved for possible divisional filings. Claims 53-55, which depend from claim 1, are withdrawn and are subject to reintroduction. Claims 1-21 and 22-47 are pending and under examination.

In the subject restriction requirement, the Examiner indicated a substantial number of additional patentably distinct species, in what the Examiner apparently characterizes as separately patentable inventions . To address these further requests, Applicants state as follows:

i) Applicants elect Group A, SEQ ID. NO:1, and note that all of the pending claims read on SEQ ID NO:1. However, Applicants further note that claim 1 is a linking claim and thus is not required to be amended or canceled. See MPEP 809, which requires that the Examiner examine all linking claims, even if they are, as here, generically directed to a number of patentably distinct inventions.

ii) Although Applicants do not currently intend to limit the broader claims to include a limitation to a drug or therapeutic agent coupled to the isolated peptide, Applicants elect group a) directed to a "peptide coupled to a drug or therapeutic agent." It is believed that all of the claims also read on this subgenus. Again, Applicants note that claim 1 is a linking claim and thus is not required to be amended or canceled. See MPEP 809, which requires that the Examiner examine the linking claims, even if the are, as here, generically directed to a number of patentably distinct inventions.

Applicants have not identified any subgroup elections required for group a) in the subject restriction requirement. It is not clear whether this was intentional or not, but Applicants will presume that such was intended. If not, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3081 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.



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